



**DESERT HEALTHCARE DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES  
MEETING MINUTES  
April 26, 2022**

Directors Present – Video Conference	District Staff Present – Video Conference	Absent
President Karen Borja Vice-President/Secretary Evett PerezGil Director Arthur Shorr Carole Rogers, RN Director Les Zendle, MD Director Leticia De Lara Director Carmina Zavala	Conrado E. Bázquez, MD, CEO Chris Christensen, CAO Donna Craig, Chief Program Officer Alejandro Espinoza, MPH, Chief of Community Engagement Jana Trew, Senior Program Officer Will Dean, Marketing and Communications Director Meghan Kane, MPH, Senior Program Officer, Public Health Andrea S. Hayles, Clerk of the Board  <u>Legal Counsel</u> Jeff Scott	

AGENDA ITEMS	DISCUSSION	ACTION
<b>A. Call to Order</b>  <b>Roll Call</b>	President Borja called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.  The Clerk of the Board called the roll with all directors' present except Director De Lara.	
<b>B. Pledge of Allegiance</b>	President Borja asked Director Rogers to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.	
<b>C. Approval of Agenda</b>	President Borja asked for a motion to approve the agenda.	<b>#21-88 MOTION WAS MADE by Director Rogers and seconded by Director Shorr to approve the agenda.</b> <b>Motion passed unanimously.</b> <b>AYES – 7 President Borja, Vice-President/Secretary PerezGil, Director Shorr, Director Rogers, Director Zendle, Director De Lara, and Director Zavala</b> <b>NOES – 0</b> <b>ABSENT – 0</b>
<b>D. Public Comment</b>	The clerk of the board provided a brief overview for a letter of addendum from Mr. Hank	



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	Goodrault, RN, Desert Regional Medical Center, concerning patient safety that is attached to the minutes.	
<p><b>E. Consent Agenda</b></p> <p><b>1. BOARD MINUTES</b></p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">a. Board of Directors Meeting – March 22, 2022</p> <p><b>2. FINANCIALS</b></p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">1. Approval of the March 2022 Financial Statements – F&amp;A Approved April 12, 2022</p> <p><b>3. LAS PALMAS MEDICAL PLAZA</b></p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">a. Las Palmas Medical Plaza – New Lease – Suite 1W 204 – Coachella Valley Volunteers in Medicine (CVVIM)</p> <p><b>4. GRANTS</b></p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">a. Grant #1311 Desert Arc: Healthcare for Adults with Disabilities Project Employment of Licensed Vocational Nurses – \$102,741 – Strategic Plan Goal #2: Access to Primary and Specialty Care/Strategy #2.7: Utilize an Equity Lens to Expand Services and Resources to Underserved Communities</p> <p><b>5. RESOLUTIONS</b></p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">1. Subsequent Emergency Resolution #22-08 Re-Ratifying the State of Emergency and Re-Authorizing Remote Teleconference Meetings</p>	President Borja asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda.	<p><b>#21-89 MOTION WAS MADE by Director Shorr and seconded by Vice-President De Lara to approve the consent agenda.</b></p> <p><b>Motion passed unanimously.</b></p> <p><b>AYES – 7</b> President Borja, Vice-President/Secretary PerezGil, Director Shorr, Director Rogers, Director Zendle, Director De Lara, and Director Zavala</p> <p><b>NOES – 0</b></p> <p><b>ABSENT – 0</b></p>
<p><b>F. Election of Officer – Board Secretary</b></p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">1. Election of Officers Procedure, Jeff G. Scott, Esq.,</p>	Jeff Scott, Esq., Legal Counsel, provided background on the updated policy to separate the	



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<p><b>Legal Counsel (memo attached)</b></p>	<p>Vice-President and Secretary positions and described the nomination process.</p> <p>Mr. Scott opened the nominations for Secretary of the Board with Director De Lara nominating Director Zavala. There were no other nominations, Director Zavala accepted the nomination, Director De Lara moved the vote, and Director Shorr seconded the vote.</p>	<p><b>#21-90 MOTION WAS MADE by Director De Lara and seconded by Director Shorr to approve Director Zavala as the Board Secretary.</b></p> <p><b>Motion passed unanimously.</b></p> <p><b>AYES – 7 President Borja, Vice-President/Secretary PerezGil, Director Shorr, Director Rogers, Director Zendle, Director De Lara, and Director Zavala</b></p> <p><b>NOES – 0</b></p> <p><b>ABSENT – 0</b></p>
<p><b>G. Desert Healthcare District CEO Report</b></p> <p><b>1. COVID-19 Coachella Valley Update</b></p> <p><b>2. Local Area Formation Commission (LAFCO) Special District Member Ballot Extension – Western Portion of the County</b></p>	<p>Conrado Bárzaga, MD, CEO, provided an update on COVID-19 in the Coachella Valley, describing the decline in numbers since January after the increase in cases and the low death rate in March most likely due to vaccinations. There's an upcoming meeting with Riverside University Health Systems (RUHS) to obtain additional data, especially for the high-risk populations.</p> <p>Dr. Bárzaga, CEO, described the background of the special district ballot for the western portion of the county, the election process, the ballot deadline, and the lack of a quorum to extend the ballot period to June 7.</p>	



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<p><b>3. Special Meeting of the Board Workshop - Understanding the District Financial Statements – May 3 @ 5:30 p.m.</b></p>	<p>Dr. Bárzaga, CEO, described the upcoming workshop to understand the district financial statements. President Borja explained the goal of the overview of the financial statements for external and internal fiduciary stewards for monies received and expended in hopes that the public joins the Board to understand the financials.</p>	
<p><b>4. Riverside County Fourth District Woman of the Year, Director Leticia De Lara</b></p>	<p>Dr. Bárzaga, CEO, congratulated Director De Lara and described her recognition as Riverside County’s Fourth District Woman of the Year.</p>	
<p><b>5. Palm Springs Life Magazine presents Women Who Lead Luncheon</b></p>	<p>Dr. Bárzaga, CEO, congratulated Director De Lara as one of three recipients of the Palm Springs Life Magazine Women Who Lead awardees as leaders and role models who are bettering their communities through their extraordinary accomplishments and dedication.</p>	
<p><b>6. CEO Community Engagements and District Media Visibility</b></p>	<p>Dr. Bárzaga, CEO, described his community engagements highlighting the District’s Champion of Public Health Award from Riverside County in addressing the public health crisis, including his presentation to the Desert Regional Medical Center Governing Board.</p>	
<p><b>H. Desert Regional Medical Center CEO Report</b></p>	<p>Michelle Finney, CEO, Desert Care Network (DCN), Desert Regional Medical Center (DRMC), expressed her</p>	



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	<p>appreciation to Dr. Bárzaga for his presentation to the Governing Board, and the work of the district that included an overview of the strategic plan. Mrs. Finney also congratulated Director De Lara for her community work and accolades. The COVID activity has been minimal for April at DRMC and JFK Memorial Hospitals thirteen (13) admissions with high census levels that remain even during the decrease in COVID numbers; thus, more attention has been placed on staff recruitment and retention efforts. Additional onboarding has advanced at job fairs, international recruiting, and collaboration with the local colleges to match the activity levels at the hospital.</p> <p>The removal of the palm trees has begun due to age and condition, including replacing the landscaping.</p> <p>The CT scanner is upgraded with a second upgrade in place, including at JFK Memorial Hospital. The radiology room upgrade is moving forward and will take several months to complete. The medication management system will be replaced at both hospitals in the next month with OMNICELL which includes enhanced features. DRMC is upgrading the lighting in the operating rooms, as a result, during each</p>	
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	<p>renovation, a particular room is unattainable.</p> <p>Mrs. Finney provided an update on the residency program with a 100% match for the upcoming year. DCN is opening a new fellowship program in July, with two critical care fellows matched for the program.</p> <p>The Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) review performed exceedingly well for the residency program, with high expectations of the final report real-time survey.</p> <p>Negotiations with the California Nurses Association (CAN) have commenced for a new contract, with notice of an informational picket event, no disruption, and a correction from a news article that the nurses were walking out, which is incorrect as the picket is only for informational purposes.</p>	
<p><b>I. Desert Regional Medical Center Governing Board</b></p>	<p>Director Zendle, MD, described the Governing Board March and April meeting updates explaining the extensive marketing presentation update from Rich Ramhoff, Group Marketing Director, DCN, focusing on the NCIU, Cancer Center, ER, and Trauma, and Cardiology and Stroke. Presented each month, the board received a quality update of the open and closed cases with the California Department</p>	



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	<p>of Public and assessed the peer review and credentialing. As previously mentioned, Dr. Bárzaga, CEO, provided an exceptional presentation to the Governing Board on the strategic plan and goals, including the boards interest in access to primary care, specialty care, mental health care, increasing the workforce, and the collective impact to achieve the strategic objectives. An overview of the GME report was discussed with the Governing Board, and a match to the full residency with 74 active residences in July.</p> <p>Director Rogers highlighted the district's separate plan of action and additional aspects DRMC and the Network are involved in collaborations of the district's endeavors.</p>	
<p><b>J. Committee Meetings –</b></p> <p><b>I.1. Finance, Legal, Administration &amp; Real Estate</b></p> <p><b>1. Draft Meeting Minutes – April 12, 2022</b></p> <p><b>2. Consideration to Approve California Consulting — Consulting Services Agreement (\$4,250/mo.) — District/Foundation Grant Writing Services – Strategic Plan Strategy #1.3 – Goal #1: Expand Capabilities and Activities</b></p>	<p>President Borja inquired on any questions concerning the F&amp;A Committee meeting minutes.</p> <p>Dr. Barzaga, CEO, described his overview during the F&amp;A Committee meeting of the California Consulting Services agreement with a modification to the start date retroactive to April 1 to assist with additional funding for</p>	<p><b>#21-91 MOTION WAS MADE by Director Zendle and seconded by Director Zavala to approve California Consulting — Consulting Services Agreement (\$4,250/mo.) – District/Foundation Grant Writing Services. Motion passed unanimously.</b></p>



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<p><b>for Obtaining New Grant Funding by Hiring a Grant Writer</b></p>	<p>grant writer services as outlined in the strategic plan.</p>	<p><b>AYES – 7 President Borja, Vice-President/Secretary PerezGil, Director Shorr, Director Rogers, Director Zendle, Director De Lara, and Director Zavala</b> <b>NOES – 0</b> <b>ABSENT – 0</b></p>
<p><b>3. Las Palmas Medical Plaza – 2021 Common Area Maintenance (CAM) Reconciliation</b></p>	<p>Chris Christensen, CAO, described the costs related to the Common Area Maintenance (CAM), Insurance and Property Taxes for the Las Palmas Medical Plaza, the year-end calendar of accounting, and the excess costs recovered from the tenants through the annual billing.</p>	
<p><b>J.2. Program Committee</b></p>		
<p><b>1. Draft Meeting Minutes – April 12, 2022</b></p>	<p>President Borja inquired on any questions concerning the Program Committee meeting minutes.</p>	
<p><b>2. Consideration to Approve Grant #1313 Angel View: Improving Access to Primary and Specialty Care Services for Children With Disabilities – \$76,790 – Strategic Plan Goal #2: Access to Primary and Specialty Care/Strategy #2.7: Utilize an Equity Lens to Expand Services and Resources to Underserved Communities</b></p>	<p>President Borja recused herself from the Angel View grant discussion due to a conflict of interest.</p> <p>Donna Craig, Chief Program Officer, provided an overview of Angel View’s grant request for the salaries of a program manager and case manager, anticipating over 2,000 hours of one-on-one support to disabled children and their families. A quorum was not established at the Program Committee meeting, which required staff to obtain Board approval.</p>	<p><b>#21-92 MOTION WAS MADE by Director De Lara and seconded by Director Zavala to approve Grant #1313 Angel View: Improving Access to Primary and Specialty Care Services for Children With Disabilities – \$76,790. Motion passed 6-1.</b> <b>AYES – 6 Vice-President/Secretary PerezGil, Director Shorr, Director Rogers, Director Zendle, Director De Lara, and Director Zavala</b> <b>NOES – 0</b> <b>ABSENT – 0</b> <b>RECUSAL – 1 President Borja</b></p>
<p><b>3. Grant Payment Schedule</b></p>		






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<p><b>4. Regional Access Project Foundation Mental Health Initiative RFP and District Partnership (\$300K) – Grants Awarded</b></p> <p><b>5. Progress and Final Reports</b></p>	<p>Director De Lara explained that the Regional Access Project Foundation (RAP) will be tracking the data from the mental health initiative RFP funding using Results-Based Accountability (RBA), inquiring if the district is also tracking the \$300k impact related to the healthcare components.</p> <p>Donna Craig, Chief Program Officer, explained that the terms of the partnership involved RAP tracking all of the grants with RBA while working with the grantees awarded. However, an upcoming meeting is scheduled to determine the financial tracking to align with the district’s behavioral health initiative impact.</p>	
<p><b>K. Legal</b></p>	<p>Jeff Scott, Legal Counsel, provided a legislative update on healthcare related bills AB 1859 mental health services, AB 1894 Designated public hospital financing advisory group, AB 1993 COVID-19 vaccination requirements, AB 2123 Bringing Health Care into Communities Act of 2023, and AB 2449 Open meetings: local agencies: teleconferences.</p>	
<p><b>L. Immediate Issues and Comments</b></p>	<p>Director De Lara explained that she is representing the district, providing remarks at the Mecca Park Groundbreaking Ceremony, and invited the Board to attend.</p>	



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	<p>Director Rogers provided an overview on the housing and homeless committee meetings highlighting Lift to Rise’s approved two-year action plan and key ideas with a state multi-housing bond program and Cal Homes agriculture workers housing funding in the state budget. Director Rogers described the integration of childcare into affordable housing developments with eligibility in Riverside County, which includes subsidized housing. The Southern California Association of Governments will hold a workshop on May 5 for housing and community development, with each county providing a pro-housing designation to assist with affordable housing. Director Rogers attended the Coachella Valley Business Forecast highlighting the keynote speaker and areas in need, such as promoting housing on the forefront affecting the area.</p>	
<p><b>M. Adjournment</b></p>	<p>President Borja adjourned the meeting at 6:42 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Audio recording available on the website at <a href="http://dhcd.org/Agendas-and-Documents">http://dhcd.org/Agendas-and-Documents</a></b></p>

DocuSigned by:  
  
 ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Evett PerezGil, Vice-President/Secretary  
 Desert Healthcare District Board of Directors

*Minutes respectfully submitted by Andrea S. Hayles, Clerk of the Board*